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THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Letter dated 22 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

As my delegation did not have the opportunity to intervene publicly in the Commission on item 7 of the provisional agenda, I ask you please to allow the annexed statement* to be circulated to all members and observers at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Adriano PARREIRA
Permanent Representative

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* The annex is reproduced as received in the language of submission only.

ANNEX

Mr. Chairman,

My Government has allways believed that diaologue and consultation are powerfull instruments wich open the avenues for the overcoming of disputes and controversies. All Nations should make a serious effort to permanently improve their methods of negotiation in order to contribute and help to reconcile interests and create a working relationship towards consensus-building. Allow me Sir, to reaffirm the full engagement of my Government in cooperating with the Center for Human Rights and with its Comission to build an athmosphere of trsust so essencial to overcome impasses and dissipate fustrations.

Mr. Chairman,

When we started the very harduous and difficult negotiations in Bicesse and later on in Lusaka, we were certain to achieve our goal: the pacification of our society and the rebuilding in brotherhood of our nation. We were certain of our objectives because we know that there is no other way assuring sustainable solution of conflicts. We believe that the chances for peace are never exhausted and we will go on and trying until we attain our goals. The angolan Government is more than eager to share its experience with other nations helping them to find the solution to their conflits through open dialogue and consultation.

Mr. Chairman,

I can guarantee you Excellency that the Government of Angola and the angolan people have all reasons in the world to comdemn the use of mercenaries. We consider them to be one of the major menaces to the right of the Peoples to choose their oun destiny. From the first moment of our Independence, Angola generously offered protection and confort to those who fled from the bloody hands of colonial domination in Namibia and from apartheid in South Africa, the sanctuary of mercenaries in Africa. We did not only opened our arms to our namibian and south-africans brothers but fighted and defeated those mercenaries, and for the first time in History they were judged and sentenced.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me assure you our solidarity with the recommendations expressed by the Special Rapporteur on the question on mercenaries. During the 51 st Session of the Comission, my Government did subscribe pertinent resolutions against the use of mercenaries as resolution 1995/5, which was followed by the Economic and Social Board decision 1995/254. My Government did subscribe the Convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries, adopted by the General Assembley through its resolution 44/34, 4/12/89. We strongly encourage all Nations, namely those in southern Africa, to act in conformity and subscribe this very important international instrument and draft adequate legislation to prosecute those responsible for mercenarian and similar activities.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.